

*Amendment would authorize study to decrease two billion dollars in payment errors by federal housing department*

Washington, D.C. - Congressman John Adler, a member of the House Financial Services Committee, today introduced an amendment calling for a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of voucher disbursement errors made by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The federal housing program has estimated an annual \$2 billion in subsidy payment errors in the Section 8 Voucher program. The amendment passed the Financial Services Committee Hearing by a voice vote.

"We can't continue to allow this kind of waste in a government program," Congressman Adler said, during the Financial Services Committee mark-up. "We need to increase government efficiency, and save taxpayer dollars."

Congressman Adler's amendment provides HUD and local Public Housing Authorities with the tools needed to reduce subsidy errors. According to a HUD 2001 Quality Control study, 60 percent of all rent and subsidy calculations contain some type of error. That leads to an estimated \$2 billion in subsidy over- and underpayment in the Section 8 voucher program.

Today's amendment requires GAO to conduct their study within a nine month period to identify ways that HUD and other housing authorities can reduce subsidy distribution errors and make the government program more efficient.